

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 4, line 21 of the specification as set forth below. Additions to the specification are shown in underlined and bold text and deletions from the specification are shown in strike-through and bold text.

Because it is difficult to ensure that a student has "attended" remote education class, many states or regulatory authorities have not permitted training by remote sources to qualify for satisfaction of the requirements for initial and/or continuing education classes. Instead, students are often only permitted to audit a course provided online without the grant of credit for the course. The reason for this course credit limitation is because there generally is no mechanism for making certain that the student did not skip or skim through the lesson, or did not simply start the lesson and walk away. Consider, for example, the child care education sites **of Learning Options and ECE Training**, ~~at www.learningoptions.org and www.ece training.net~~, or the technical training sites **of Element K, LLC and Click2Learn, Inc.** ~~at www.elementk.com and www.click2learn.com~~. These systems present textual and/or graphic slides through which the student can advance at their own pace. The educator does not control the pace at which the student takes the course, and, therefore, the educator cannot be assured that the student attends the course for a requisite minimum time frame. While the prior art systems may test the student based on material presented, a student could, conceivably, just guess at the answers and be deemed to have successfully completed the course. An educator **may** want **[[s]]** to make certain that a student earns his/her grades by completing a required minimum time attendance (minimum number of hours). Thus, it is desired to provide an online education system and method which ensures that the student "attended" the class for a desired time. Such a system and method would

result in more accurate teaching of student outcomes for the course, greater confidence in the

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integrity of the course, and the educator being willing to accept a certificate of completion or the

course meeting ~~requiriements~~requirements, and subsequently granting course credit.

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Please amend the three (3) paragraphs beginning at page 13, line 3 as set forth below. Additions to the specification are shown in underlined and bold text and deletions from the specification are shown in strike-through and bold text.

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In the embodiment whose operation is described herein below, the content of the lesson illustrated was generated by a third party system and educator provider system 22. By means well known in the art, HTML pages were generated for the lesson, with the HTML pages containing all content except audio content. For each HTML page, which constitutes a "presentation" of the lesson, at least one audio file was generated and associated with at least one of the HTML pages. Such audio files are in a format readable at student systems 24, 26, 28, and 30 by use of a browser plug-in such as ~~Macromedia Shockwave~~**MACROMEDIA® SHOCKWAVE®** by Macromedia, Inc.

The use of HTML and ~~Macromedia Shockwave~~**MACROMEDIA® SHOCKWAVE®** is conducive to an environment where network 34 comprises the Internet, and where each student system 24, 26, 28, and 30 has a browser, such as Microsoft Corporation's ~~Internet Explorer™~~**INTERNET EXPLORER®** or Netscape Corporation's ~~Navigator™~~**NETSCAPE**, residing thereon together with the ~~Macromedia Shockwave~~**MACROMEDIA® SHOCKWAVE®** plug-in. With this configuration, each student system 24, 26, 28, and 30 is capable of receiving the lesson, allowing the student to interact with the lesson, and allowing the student to be in bidirectional communication with educator provider system 22.

It will be appreciated by those of skill in the art that the audio streaming capability may be built into the browser, such as has been announced to be included in future versions of ~~Internet Explorer™ and Netscape™~~**INTERNET EXPLORER® AND NETSCAPE®**.

Regardless of the structure of the software and/or hardware operating on each student system 24,

C2 26, 28, and 30, it is key that the software and/or hardware include the ability to read and play the audio file(s) associated with the pages of the lesson to serve as an audio controlling mechanism.

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Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 1 as set forth below. Additions to the specification are shown in underlined and bold text and deletions from the specification are shown in strike-through and bold text.

C3 Referring now to Fig. 2, there is shown a screen printout at student system 30 of the login screen according to one embodiment of the present invention. In this embodiment, the login screen is located on the Internet at the web address of **Professional Training and Consulting, Inc.****www.ptctraining/online/login.plp**, which provides a student accessing such page with access to educator provider system 22. The login screen of Fig. 2 provides input fields for a User ID and Password at User ID field 40 and Password field 42, respectively. Valid User IDs and Passwords may be provided to the student from the educator provider, the education authority, or third party educator, but obviously must be recognizable by educator provider system 22. Generally, the student must be pre-approved by an educator, for the present invention permits for offering of credit to the student. Further, pre-approval may be desired to ensure payment by the student for the training provided.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 6 as set forth below. Additions to the specification are shown in underlined and bold text and deletions from the specification are shown in strike-through and bold text.

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Figs. 4A and 4B collectively show a screen printout of the student system configuration screen according to one embodiment of the present invention. The configuration screen of Figs. 4A and 4B is displayed at student system 30 upon activation of Take Course button 50 of Fig. 3. The configuration screen is useful to notify the student of the requirements of student system 30 for the Sensational Science Course. Note that the requirements listed in Fig. 4A include a "sound card", "speakers," and "~~Macromedia Shockwave~~ **MACROMEDIA SHOCKWAVE®**". These requirements go to the audio controlling feature of the present invention.

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Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 18, line 4 as set forth below. Additions to the specification are shown in underlined and bold text and deletions from the specification are shown in strike-through and bold text.

C5 The present invention also requires that the content of at least one lesson page/screen has associated therewith at least one audio file. The audio file(s) is (are) used to control the pace and rate of advancement of the presentation of the lesson pages having audio associated therewith, and, subsequently, of the entire lesson. A student will not be able to logout using LOGOUT button 70 or to advance to the next screen/page using right arrow button 74 until the at least one audio file for that screen/page has completed playing at student system 30. This "playing" of the audio file(s) is achieved using the ~~Macromedia—Shockwave~~ **MACROMEDIA SHOCKWAVE®** plug-in previously described in connection with this embodiment of the invention.